

I just wanted to let you know that I do not support any measure that will decrease the number of competing media firms, particularly in the radio broadcasting industry. The market is currently dominated by Clear Channel, which limits the availability and supply of diverse programming for our nation's diverse population and interests. If restaurants consolidated the way radio has, 90% of all restaurants would be McDonald's. When you limit the diversity of supply, you thereby undermine peoples' capacity for diverse interests and tastes. Since media controls most of the information the public receives, you are, in effect, undermining the public's ability and ultimately desire to acquire information. What you are left with is the dummifying down of democracy. The government must take action to limit media consolidation. It is one of the greatest threats to our democracy. By giving a few wealthy media companies unparalleled control over the flow of public information, you undermine the freedom of speech. Freedom of speech is meant for us all, not just for the few. By granting it mainly to the few, you undermine freedom of speech. This basic right to speech is more important than un-regulated business. We will always need some regulation, and in the case of media consolidation, we must control it before it gets out of hand.